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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
P. O. BOX 773
HENDERSON, TEXAS 75653-0773**



THE PRESBYTERIAN PIPELINE

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Issue Three

“During this time of Lent”

On the church calendar March 1 is designated as Ash Wednesday which is the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent (a Latin word which means “forty”) is a journey of 40 days (not counting Sundays) which leads to the resurrection of Jesus. The significance of the 40 day period of Lent is based on two episodes of spiritual testing in the Bible; the 40 years of wilderness wandering by the Israelites and the testing of Jesus in the wilderness for 40 days. The first step of this Lenten journey invites us to acknowledge our mortality and sinfulness by the imposition of ashes. God told Adam after he had sinned: “you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” (Genesis 3:19) In the Bible when people felt remorse for something they did, they would put ashes on their head and wore “sackcloth” as a way of confessing their sins and asking for forgiveness. The shape of the ashes on our foreheads is a hint of the good news to come through the cross for our forgiveness.

Lent is a call to simple living, prayer, and fasting for the sake of growing closer to God. We live in a busy world. Every day it seems as if there are more things to do than there is time to do it. Many of us find ourselves moving, moving, moving, from the time we wake up until long after the time we should be sleeping. It seems as if the more we do, the more there is to do. Lent is a call for us slow down some to do as Jesus did in Luke 5:16 NIV “But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.” We need time to connect with God and it requires our intentional isolation and planned availability to God. Think of the words of the old hymn “I Come to the Garden Alone.”

Some Christians observe the practice of fasting during Lent. Going without food is not the only way to fast. Giving up something such as soft drinks, chocolate, or some activity such as tv is also fasting. What do we need to give up in order to focus on God? Some Christians instead of “giving up something” for Lent will take something *on for Christ* such as reading a chapter of the Bible each day, collecting food for a food pantry, helping others as a way of serving God.

During our Lenten journey may we all more fully realize our utter dependence upon the grace of God and the power of Christ’s resurrection for each one of us.

Grace and peace,
Your Communications Team

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Your 2017 Finance Committee had its first meeting on February 8, 2017. Our team members consist of Dr. John Hillin, Carol Scoggins and Bill Stanley (Vice-Chair). This committee reviews the finances of the church and works with Lisa Temple, our church's administrative assistant, in accounting for the church's receipts and disbursements.

The committee reviewed the 12/31/2016 and the 1/31/2017 financial reports along with the revised proposed budget for 2017. The committee compared the "revised" 2017 budget with the "original" proposed budget noting changes that were made. Pledge income was updated to reflect pledge cards received as of February 7th. Expenses were revised to reflect Reverend Klein leaving and payments for guest pastors in the interim.

It was noted that the budget will probably need to be revised later in the year dependent upon the timing of getting an interim pastor. After discussion, the committee recommended that the revised budget be presented to the Session for approval.

Peace and thankfulness,
Tom Weaver, Chair



**Finance
Committee**

Please keep these dear ones in your prayers:

Members of the Congregation: Robbie Brooks, Syble DeLoach, Jack Gray, Sally Hosea, Joyce Huggins, Billie Manck, Debbie Murphy, Cindy and Bob Ratliff, Patsy Snelgrove, Sue Williams, Session and Congregation of our church during this transition time

Connected Family: Mark & Angela Clark, and Kent Clark

Friends and Neighbors: Dr. David Craig – friend of the congregation

Those loved ones known only to God

Prayer 
Request



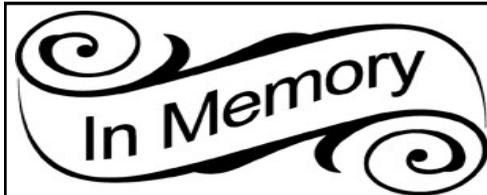
City Councilman,
Thomas Ward, came
to hear his daughter,
Rev. Kay Creer,
proclaim God's Word.

**LUCK O'
the Irish**
Join us on St. Patrick's Day!

For Our
Cornbeef & Cabbage Fellowship
March 17th at 5:00pm

Presbyterian Women Study "Who is Jesus"

We gathered together in fellowship on Monday, February 27th to continue our study of "Who Is Jesus" in the Horizon study guide. Last month we began with the journey of thought of Who Is Jesus through the words of Mark. This month, we continued the journey with Matthew. We had a good group come to enjoy the fun, fellowship and lesson. There was some chili left over from the successful Choir Chili Lunch so we shared in chili lunch. Jane Fahle furnished a delicious banana bread for dessert. Joining in the gathering was: Lynn Tieken, Kathy Porter, Jane Fahle, Pat Laney, Margaret Hillin, Jan Mims, Carol Scoggins, Fonta Conway, Tammy Hillin, and Claudia Morgan-Gray. Next month's meeting will be March 27th and the group will continue with the book of Luke. We invite all Presbyterian Women and their friends or guest to join us each month on the 4th Monday at 11:30 am in the FPC-Henderson Fellowship Hall. Unless otherwise planned, it is a brown bag lunch event. So for today and every day, go forward and be nicer than you have to be and go out and hustle kindness in this world.



We have received memorials in February in memory of:

Tom DeLoach



ASH WEDNESDAY – Please join us as the season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at 6:00 pm. We hope you will join us as we all begin the journey to Easter. Elder Jimmy Chapman will lead the ceremony and the imposition of ashes.



Your 2017 Fellowship Committee is up and going. Members are Claudia Morgan-Gray, Chair; Mary Lowe, Vice-Chair; Fonta Conway, Past-Chair; Jan Mims, Lavonne Schauwecker, Bob Schauwecker, Judy Andrasko, L'sha Stanley and James Nicholson.

We had our organizational meeting on Monday, January 23, 2017 and discussed upcoming events, future Fellowship events, kitchen organization (installation of pull out drawers in most of the lower cabinets) and the desire and need for more frequent fellowship events. We unanimously agreed to try to have at least one Fellowship event per month. Along that line, we are working to coordinate a group that wants to go to a dutch-treat showing at the movie theatre of a special showing of the newly released movie "The Shack." A date and time have not been determined but if you are interested in joining us in this venture out, please let Claudia know.

Additionally, the next scheduled congregation event will be a St. Patrick's Day Corn-Beef and Cabbage dinner on Friday, March 17th from 5:00 – 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. This will be the week after Daylight Savings Time changes and we "spring forward" so hopefully the extended daylight hours will make for easier evening out. So please mark your calendar and Save the Date to join us for a wee bit of the luck of the Irish. (and wear green you know!)

We had a grand time and helped with the successful Chili Lunch Fundraiser with the Choir. Did I hear someone say they might make that an annual event??? Good job Choir – we enjoyed working with you!

We are going to be doing some updating and some additional organization of the kitchen area that we think you will all enjoy once completed. We will also be working with the Church Secretary on coordinating use of the Fellowship Hall. We also hope to get our new guidelines and procedures in place within the next month or so. We believe these guidelines will help everyone who uses the kitchen and Fellowship Hall to better maintain the kitchen and equipment and to help oversee and control the use of materials in the supply room for inventory and financial control purposes.

We believe that FELLOWSHIP MATTERS. If you have ideas for Fellowship functions or outings, please pass them along to any member of the Fellowship Committee.

Thankfully submitted,
FPC Fellowship Committee



A big THANK YOU to this congregation and all who were a part of the FPC Choir Chili fundraiser. Everyone who helped with promoting, selling tickets, making chili, baking cookies, purchasing cookies, all the "fixins", setting up, cleaning up, and giving donations....Thank you!. The Fellowship Hall looked amazing (Bob), and the kitchen helpers made the event flow so smoothly, thank you Claudia, Jan and Fonta and all of the "Hospitality crew." Your graciousness, hospitality, and benevolence showed a wellspring of God's Love and faithfulness.

With the generous proceeds of the event, we are able to move forward with the piano repair and purchase of new choir microphones.

Again, THANK YOU ALL!!!

Mark Reeves, CAGO

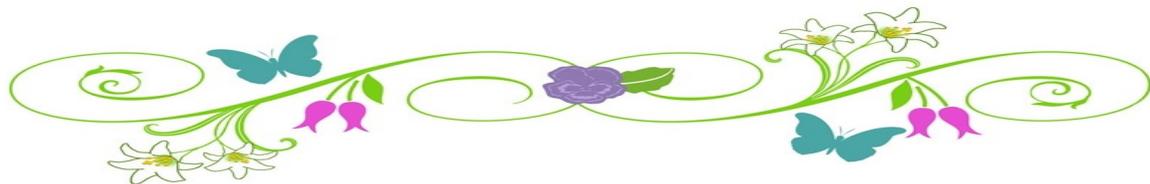


Upcoming

EVENTS

March 5th---- Trinity Valley Community College Choir Concert
3PM at the First Baptist Church of Athens
(featuring works of Durufle, Puccini, and Brahms)

March 9th---- Kilgore College Choir Concert
7PM at First Presbyterian Church of Kilgore
(under the direction of Dr. Mary Heiden)



WORSHIP TEAM

Your Worship Team seeks to provide our worship experience reverently through Scripture, proclamation, and Sacraments as noted in the Book of Order (PCUSA). "God in Christ is present by the Holy Spirit acting to transform, empower, and sustain human lives. In Christian worship the people of God 1) hear the Word proclaimed, 2) receive the Word enacted in Sacrament, 3) discover the Word in the world, and 4) are sent to follow the Word into the world."

We have been pleased with all who have filled our pulpit of late, and hope the congregation feels likewise. Our liturgists assist the speaker, and help lead worship in a flowing manner. The Music Director and choir work, diligently practicing, to provide praise to the Lord in song. Our sound board/lighting operators are ever-present to enhance the presentation. Our ushers and candle lighter, bell ringer, Worship Enhancement team (Kathy & Lsha), all add to the group responsible for our worship experience. Thanks to all.

Ruling Elder Jimmy Chapman was approached by the Committee on Ministry, Grace Presbytery (of which he is a member) to receive instruction to administer Holy Communion to our congregation. This was brought to the Session for approval which was unanimously received. Jimmy will be commissioned by Presbytery following this instruction whenever a Teaching Elder is not available.

Ash Wednesday will be held on March 1, 2017 at 6 P.M. in our Sanctuary with Jimmy Chapman leading worship.

Rev. Nick Setzer from St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Longview will bring God's Word to us on March 5, 2017, and administer Holy Communion. In April, Communion date will be changed to the 2nd Sunday. Rev. Kathy Collier will be here to bring the message.

We are overjoyed to have Kelly Weaver join us in the Worship Team. To all, your presence in Worship acknowledges God present in the world and in your lives. Come often and offer yourself to God for His use.



Worship Committee

FPC-HENDERSON-HUSTLING KINDNESS WITH REFUGEES - MCALLEN PROCESSING CENTER

As we shared last month, a group from our congregation will be travelling to McAllen, TX on March 19th for a week assisting asylum seekers coming to the Sacred Heart Humanitarian Respite Center (SHHRC). Led by John Tieken, the team is: Bert Lowe, Kathy Porter, Lynn Tieken, Jan Mims, Georgann & Don Turlington and Claudia Morgan-Gray. So come help us prepare for this journey and walk a moment in their shoes with us. Last month, we shared the beginning of the journey for the asylum-seekers. We outlined the registration process, then clothing, bathing, feeding and our intent to be ambassadors of good will for these weary travelers. Where we left off, the families gather and get a brown envelope containing their paper work and bus ticket. On the envelope is a list of the bus stations they will pass through and a note that says, "I do not speak English. Please help me." We can hope they find kind help along their journey. As they leave the center, each family is also given a bag of food for the journey. **Now for the "rest of the story."**

There is much to do, and we will multi-task – like fold clothes and perhaps practice our Spanish with each other and some of the guests. Some coming into the center also roll up their sleeves to help. A number of them spend the night at Sacred Heart waiting for next day buses. The group before us shared stories of some encounters -like a young woman from Guatemala traveling to New York with her eight year old daughter. Her friend in NY was helping her escape an abusive husband. She was hoping for a safer and better life for them. Or the story of a volunteer who was asked to help a mother bathe her 4-month-old baby. She had two other children with her – 3-yr old girl and 8 yr old boy. House rules are that bathing and changing infants must be done by the parent. But it's difficult to do in a small restroom sink, so we can help. After bathing, changing and dressing the baby, she and the other children were directed to the shower. The mother turned and handed her baby to a startled volunteer while they showered. The volunteer thought "Who does that – hands their baby to a stranger and walks away?" What we came to realize over the next hours, days and week is that these folks – guests if you will - really do see and feel Sacred Heart as a respite, a safe place where the people who are there to serve can be trusted. What a humbling moment that must be. Then there was the 16 year old sitting by herself looking very sad and flat. She engaged with the volunteer but then the sadness returned to her eyes. The experience left several of them with heavy heart.

We may also interact/visit with Border Patrol Officers. Some have joined the group for a meal and shared some of their work. Their talk focuses on protection and they share statistics. They give a little better understanding of the job of Border Patrol officer and shared that many of the Border Patrol officers are veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, some suffering from various forms of PTSD.

Overall, our group is anticipating a journey full of both joy and heartbreak. We believe we are being called and will be humbled to be able to serve our neighbors and God's children and go where God's heart is breaking.



What a Success!!!



What a Success!!!



MISSION IS ON THE MOVE AT FPC

The Mission Committee (team) members (Claudia, Jimmy, John T., Kathy, Lavonne and Jan P.-- chair) met February 23rd to get FPC Mission work kicked off for 2017. We discussed our budget of \$10,000 and decided to commit \$6,500 to Presbytery. We will also support HIM (\$1000), Presbyterian Children's Home and Services (\$1000), Habitat for Humanity (\$500), Camp Gilmont (\$500) and Rusk/Panola Children's Advocacy Center (\$500). We agreed to continue supporting Presbytery's four special offerings this year and a "champion" was assigned. Our offering "champions" are: Jan P. -- OGHS, Kathy -- Pentecost, Claudia -- Peace and Global Witness, and Jimmy -- Joy Gift. We will again strive to support Presbyterian Missionaries and Young Adult Volunteers. And, as always, remember to go online to www.krogercommunityrewards and sign up or renew your participation in shopping at Kroger and earning dollars for First Presbyterian Church Henderson. Our FPC organization number is 82009. You will know you are participating if at the bottom of your Kroger receipts it states, "2016-2017 Kroger Community Rewards. You are contributing to FIRST PRESBYTERIAN".....All participants will need to go online and renew each June. The money we receive from Kroger each quarter goes to God's mission work. And as you will see, as you read on, KROGER POINTS MATTER!...

...which brings us to some big Mission news....From March 19 through 24, John T. will lead a group of mission minded members to First Presbyterian Church - McAllen, Texas. Bert, Claudia, John, Lynn, Kathy, Jan M. will be joined by Georgeann and Don Turlington as they help immigrant family units (mainly women and children) who have U.S. sponsors with the basics of bathing, clothing and feeding. The Mission team is spending \$892.40 of the \$1504 Mission Memorial funds to purchase 200 blankets for the families. On Sunday, March 12th, there will be a special commissioning service for our group and their mission. **We encourage all members of FPC to be prayerful as God leads our members in this, His mission work !**

Peace and Thankfulness,
Jan Pennal, chair



OUTREACH 2017

Your Outreach team is up and running for 2017! Bert, Claudia, Kathy and Jan P. (chair) are leading our church in reaching out to others. Our budget for this year is \$3100 and with viable goals we are again onboard for: Adopt-a Block, Kids for God, Meals on Wheels, Our Neighborhood Party (DATE SET : SATURDAY --OCTOBER 28, 2017), July back to school supplies drive, Thanksgiving HIM food baskets and Christmas food baskets and Angel Tree gifts.

Our first outreach event will be in April where we will once again don blue ribbons, this year for the whole month of April, as we recognize and support The Rusk/Panola Children's Advocacy Program.

Bert reported that the kids attending the after school program, Kids for God, are asking some great questions. Lynn, Bert, Jan M, and Kathy lead, play with, listen to, and study the bible with Chloe, Leah, George, Luis and Janiah. What a great work God is doing through our ladies for His children!

Peace and Thankfulness,
Jan Pennal, chair



Scholarships for the spring semester have been awarded to the following college students:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| • Austin Andrus | Texas State University |
| • Connor Bradshaw | Schreiner College |
| • Emily Bradshaw | Vanderbilt University |
| • Cameron Coe | Texas Tech University |
| • Cody Conway | Stephen F. Austin University |
| • Hayley Scoggins | University of North Texas |

If any church member has a relative who will be attending college during the fall semester of 2017 and would be interested in being considered for a scholarship, please let a member of the scholarship committee know. These members are Carol Scoggins, Mary Lowe and Lavonne Schauwecker. DEADLINE FOR APPLYING IS JUNE 21, 2017.

COUNCIL ACTIONS

2-16-17

- Worshiped and prayed together
- Heard from COM Representatives about the process of getting another pastor and options for FPC
- Named the session as the Interim Search Committee
- Called session meeting for Feb. 28 to discuss the search process
- Approved donation of pull- out drawers for kitchen cabinets
- Approved budget for 2017
- Approved requesting Grace Presbytery to train an elder to do communion when a pastor is not available
- Selected commissioners to Presbytery
- Approved scholarships
- Approved members of the scholarship committee



**HELP US TO LET PEOPLE KNOW WE ARE
HERE! LIKE US ON FACEBOOK AT
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
HENDERSON, TEXAS.**



FPC SESSION MEMBERS

Class of 2017

Bert Lowe
Claudia Morgan-Gray
Jan Pennal
Lynn Ticken

Christian Education
Personnel/Fellowship
Outreach/Mission
Worship

Class of 2018

Mary Lowe
Kathy Porter
Bill Stanley
Tom Weaver

Member Care
Communication/Clerk
Building and Grounds
Finance/Stewardship

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (CE) MINISTRY

Looking Forward to Lent

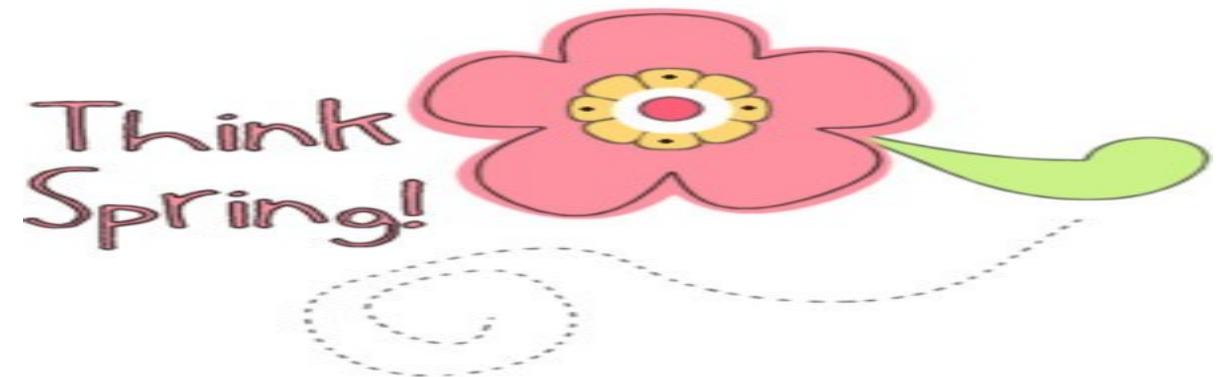
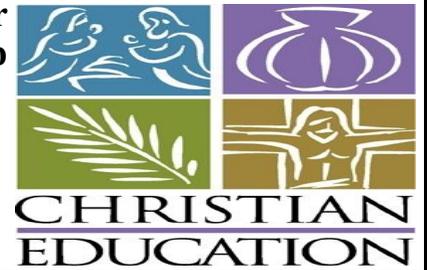
It's the busiest season of the church year—and in many ways the most important. During the Lenten Season, we learn more about our Savior's last days on earth and prepare our hearts for His second coming. In recent years, our two adult Sunday School classes have come together to experience Lent. This year, the two adult classes will continue their Bible and book studies, both so rich in meaning for all.

The Andrew Class will continue their in-depth study of the book of *Matthew* under the leadership of Jimmy Chapman. We believe that you will learn as much from that study as one might expect at a theological seminary.

The Seekers Class will continue their group discussion of *Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus—How the Jewish of Jesus Can Transform Your Faith*—by Ann Spangler and Lois Tverberg. We are confident that you will benefit from either class and will be drawn into some lively discussions that will enhance your understanding of this church season.

We'd love to have you join us. Sunday School begins at 9:45am every Sunday. You may want to come a little early for donuts, coffee and fellowship in the Fellowship Hall. We'll be looking for you.

Bert Lowe, CE Ministry Team leader
2017 Team members: Jimmy Chapman, Kathy Porter, Claudia Morgan-Gray, Jan Pennal



March 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>** Wed. 03/01 Beginning of One great Hour of Sharing</p>			 <p>1 Ash Wednesday 6:00pm Kids For God 4:15pm</p>	<p>2 C.E. Meeting 10:30am</p>	 <p>3 Meals On Wheels Claudine Kennedy</p>	4
 <p>5 Communion</p>	6	<p>7 Choir Practice 5pm</p>	<p>8 Kids For God 4:15pm</p> 	9	<p>10 Meals On Wheels</p>	11
<p>Commissioning of McAllen Mission Volunteers</p>   <p>12</p>	<p>13 Adopt-A-Block 4:15pm</p>	<p>14 Choir Practice 5pm</p>	<p>15 L.E.A.N. Meeting 2:00pm Kids For God 4:15pm</p>	<p>16 Session Meeting 6:30pm</p>	 <p>17 Cornbeef & Cabbage Fellowship 5:00pm</p>	18
 <p>19 McAllen Mission Volunteers Depart</p>	<p>20 John Bruce Hillin</p>	<p>21 Choir Practice 5pm</p>	<p>22 Kids For God 4:15pm</p>	<p>23 Robbie Brooks</p>	<p>24 Meals On Wheels</p>	25
<p>26</p> 	<p>27 P.W. Meeting 11:30am Pipeline Deadline</p>	<p>28 Choir Practice 5pm</p>	<p>29 Kids For God 4:15pm</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 Meals On Wheels</p>	

